

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and an apparatus are provided for performing parameter negotiation in a data compression link. When data is sent along the communication link in a compressed form, the escape character is not modified. When sending data in an uncompressed form, the escape character is followed by a command and the escape character is modified. A parameter mode can be entered when data is being sent uncompressed. During parameter mode, parameter negotiation between the modem peers can be accomplished without interrupting the communication link.